



BSS Advisory Committee – Confirmed Notes

BSSAC #113, Tuesday 23 May 2023 – Online

Present:

Chair
BSS Manager
BSS Business & Technical Manager
BSS Secretariat
BSS Communications Manager
BSSTC Chair

Navigation Authority reps:

Canal & River Trust
EA

Marine Trade reps:

BM1 – British Marine Executive Interests
BM3 - British Marine Boatbuilding

Examiner Body reps:

ABSSE
YDSA

Apologies:

AWCC
Broads Authority
AINA
NABO
BM2
IIMS

Boat User Group reps:

RBOA
IWA
TBA
RYA

113.1 Apologies and introductions

113.1.1 Apologies as noted above.

113.1.2 Introductions and announcements:

The Chair advised the committee that a new BSSTC Chair has been appointed. A new IWA representative will be appointed in due course. The Chair thanked the former Chair of BSSTC, for continuing in his role, but will now step down and it was confirmed this is their last meeting.

The Chair advised that he has notified the BSSMC Chair and the BSS Manager that he will be stepping down at the January meeting, after 8 years. If there is any interest in the role, please advise. There will be an advert in due course. The process will be sent to the committee for their review and comment.

The Chair welcomes the new RBOA representative.

The Chair advised a new Broads Authority representative has been appointed.

Action 1 BSS
Secretariat

113.2 Notes of last meeting and matters arising (not otherwise covered at the meeting) [Doc B1, BSSAC #112]

113.2.1 Notes of the previous meeting accepted.

(112.2.2.3) Supplement to BSSTC proposals for final minor editorial improvements to the BSS ECP - [Doc D1]. This has been approved by the BSSMC.

(112.2.2.4) BSS Advice Checks - perceptions on the ground

The Chair asked BSS Office to communicate message regarding advice Checks and suggested providing a 'script' for BSS Examiners could be an effective solution. The Chair asked BSS Office to communicate message regarding advice Checks. The BSS Manager advised this has been done and is on the website

(112.7.2) Item c) The BM1 – British Marine Executive Interests is working with marine insurers regarding a set of consistent guidelines from insurers re lithium batteries, with the top 6 or 7 things for boat owners to do. The BM1 representative gave an update and advised this is ongoing, due imminently.

(112.8.8) Smoke Alarm Consultation

The Chair stated Document F1 was sent out between the meetings and members were asked to consider the document. Some responses were received. Still opportunity to respond to the public consultation.

The Chair asked the BSSTC to understand the nature of the risk, quantified analysis and come back with options and responses. This was approved.

113.3 To note actions from the last BSSMC meeting [Verbal Update and Doc D1, BSSAC #113] – Chair

113.3.1 The BM1 Marine Trade Representative proposed one additional representative for hire boats, this was approved by the BSSMC. How does British Marine want to differentiate between the 2 representatives, and they will need to nominate a second representative

Action 2
BM1 Representative

113.3.2 Calor's withdrawal of small capacity butane and propane cylinders
(112.11.1) The paper in relation to the Calor gas situation was approved by the BSSMC.

A discussion around the Calor situation ensued. The BSS Communications Manager advised that another meeting with Calor has taken place. They have agreed to provide a document stating BSS Requirements to share with its dealerships and retailers. The BSSTC Chair said there is an issue of gas bottles not being available at marinas and the fact that Calor are not providing what the consumer needs. Not clear if marinas will be allowed to stock the products Calor recommend as an alternative or if Calor will hold exclusive rights He asked the BSS Office to clarify with Calor. If the answer to no, it can then go to the markets and competitions authority. Loose gas bottles are often seen on boats. The Chair advised we are lobbying the NAs re inspections etc.

Action 3
BSS Office

- 113.4 (112.6) Update concerning the activity to review the BSS Examiner Conditions of Registration**
- We were not going to start next stage of review with the working group until new BSSTC Chair was appointed. This has now happened, but as the Chair of this committee is stepping down it is now with BSSMC and BSSTC Chairs and the BSS Manager to discuss the way forward.
- Action 4:**
BSSMC and BSSTC Chairs and BSS Manager
- 113.5 Strategy to improve BSS Examiner communications – BSS Communications Manager**
- This is being worked on. Looking into ideas and concepts. Propose to work with the ABSSE, YDSA and IIMS representatives to help form a strategy by November. Possible use of text messaging, What's App messages and alerts upon log in in the new Communities Portal for BSS Examiners.
- Action 5** BSS Communications Manager and Examiner Body Representatives
- 113.6 Report from the BSSTC Chair [Doc C1, BSSAC #113]**
- The BSSTC Chair advised they had their first face to face meeting of the year. Likely will have a mix of online and in person meetings. The MAIB item regarding twin controls is progressing, it is a few years project as technology is being developed. Top 10 failures continue to trouble us. Would like the BSS and the NAs to do some publicity around these. Many frequent failures are addressable, i.e., CO alarms. Updating of Commercial Boat standards is one of the main projects.
- 113.7 Report from BSS Manager [Docs E1 and E2, BSSAC #113]**
- 113.7.1 a) BSS Examiners should be congratulated on their work.
- 113.7.2 b) Trend analysis. Majority of case investigations are owner vs examiner.
- 113.7.3 c) Summary of Cases: over 1500 case raised (400 above plan). Not a sustainable number with the current level of resource. We are advertising for a replacement for our leaver, the role will be a Salesforce Administrator. Will take 3 to 4 months and we ask for your patience. Further to a suggestion by the joint owners, we are also looking at secondments to aid the scheme, administration and communications based. The Chair stated that the scheme is financially secure but is hampered by being tied so closely to the Trust. There is case for the scheme to be more independent.
- 113.7.4 e) Examiner Training.
- The ABSSE Representative asked if the existing Hire Boat Examiners will need to undertake the smoke alarm training. It was also requested that any deadline for assessment be 1 April, rather than Autumn or Winter. The BSS Manager advised this will be looked at.
- 113.7.5 f) Quality Assurance
- Likely 60 NQEs by the end of the year and will likely reach capacity at that point and the NETP will pause.

113.7.6 g) Report of Incidents and Accidents

The BSS Communications Manager advised there has been another fire incident since the report was written. The IWA representative noted that CO incidents have reduced dramatically but we are now dominated by fire incidents. The BSS Communications Manager advised more fires on the coast rather than inland waterways.

113.8 Items for BSSMC

113.8.1 **Nothing for approval. The next BSSMC is a paper only meeting.**

113.8.2 The Chair will advise the Calor issue is deteriorating rather than improving and they need to be aware of it. The scheme needs resource which is affecting resilience and the schemes' ability to respond.

113.9 Dates of the next BSSAC meetings

113.9.1 31 Oct (#114), on Zoom, 25 Jan (#115) in person, venue TBC.